

ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY

Washington, D. C.

Dec. 22, 1878.

Dear Dr,

I have two copies;
& it would afford me
much pleasure to have
you send one, in my
name, to Dr Billings.

Very truly,
L. M. Cheever.

Please send acknowledgment
— to J. & L. W. C. grandam
of H. Mayah Cheever. I have said
my own copy from Library.

In J. R. Chadwick

H I S T O R Y

OF A

C A S E,

OF INCISTED DROPSY;

WITH A

DISSECTION

OF THE SEVERAL

CRISTS;

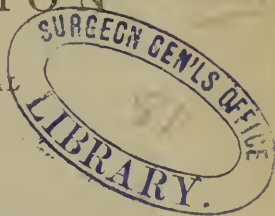
AS COMMUNICATED TO THE AMERICAN ACADEMY

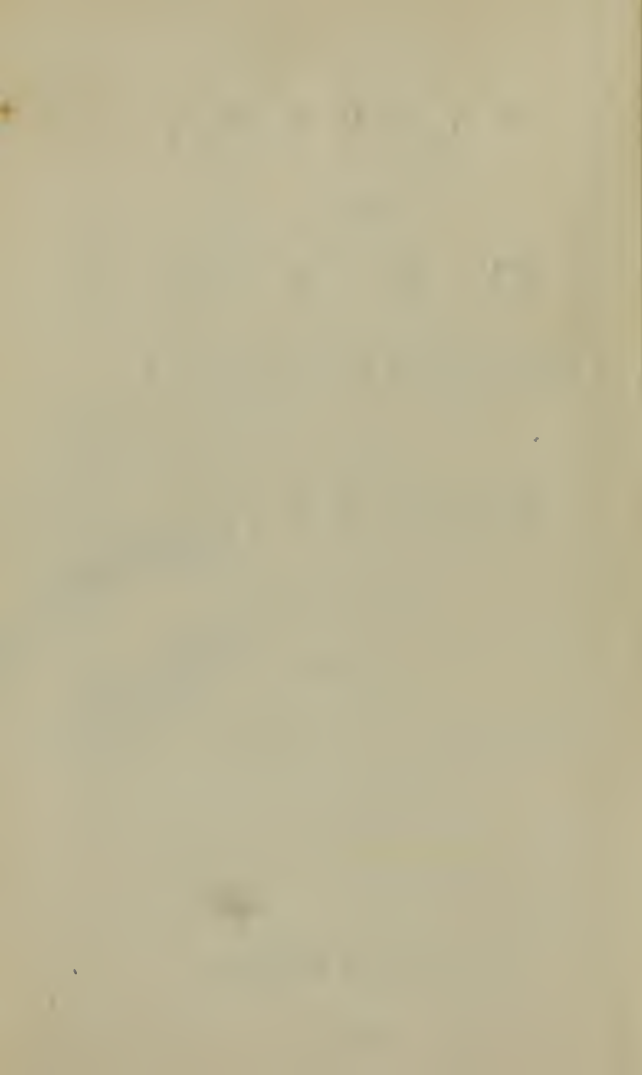
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, JAN, 31, 1787.

BY

Dr. Abijah Cheever,

BOSTON.





DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS.

TO WIT.

✠ (L. S.) ✠ BE it remembered, that on the eighteenth
✠ Day of August, in the nineteenth Year of
✠ the Independence of the United States of America,
ABIJAH CHEEVER, of the said District, hath deposited
in this office the Title of a Book, the Right whereof he
claims, as Author, in the Words following, to wit,
“ History of a Case of incited Dropsy; with a Dissection
“ of the several Cysts; as communicated to the Ame-
“ rican Academy of Arts and Sciences, January 31,
“ 1787. By Dr. ABIJAH CHEEVER, Boston ” In Con-
formity to the Act of the Congress of the United States,
intituled “ An Act for the Encouragement of Learning,
“ by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books,
“ to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies, during
“ the Times therein mentioned.”

N. GOODALL, Clerk
of the District of Massachusetts.

A true Conv of Record—Attest,
N. GOODALL.

I presented this "HISTORY," &c.
to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Jan 31,
1787. Soon after, one of the faculty of this town requested
to read a copy thereof, which I lent him for that pur-
pose; and, notwithstanding he had never seen the
patient or subject, this Copy was published in the
second Vol. of the Memoirs of the London Medical
Society, fol. 368, Art. 32, and *his Name* annexed thereto
as Author; who has also been honoured by the *London
Medical Society* for this communication. By all of which
it appears he has completely arrogated this History to
himself; thereby taking from me, not only my Right,
but also exposing me to an essential injury, the uncer-
tainty who is the author. I am therefore obliged to
obtain the first and avoid the latter, to adopt this pro-
cedure effectually to establish these two objects, after
having waited with much patience, in vain, in hopes
to have had such justice done me as would have made
it *unnecessary* for me to have taken any order upon the
subject.

A. CHEEVER.

Boston, August 19, 1794.

This may certify, That there is now
on the Files of the *American Academy of Arts and Sciences*,
a Communication by DOCTOR ABIAH CHEEVER, of
Boston, dated Nov. 25, 1786, read before the Academy
Jan 31, 1787, and entitled, "*History of a Case of incised
Dropsy, with a Dissection of the several Cysts.*"

Attest, JOHN CLARKE, Recording Secretary.
Boston, Aug. 17, 1794.

1787/1788

HISTORY
OF A CASE OF INCISTED DROPSY.

A YOUNG woman, thirty-four years of age, applied to me, in June, 1786, to be relieved of hydropic swellings of the Abdomen, with which she was first affected in the early part of this year. She informed me, she had been very intemperate, and extremely imprudent for some years, and had, previous to this indisposition, been cured of the Lues Venerea.

AFTER the trial of powerful diuretics, cathartics, and deobstruent medicines, without advantage,

vantage, I performed the Paracentesis, and upwards of four gallons of limpid water were discharged. After this operation, I immediately administered Tonics and occasional Evacuants. She improved in health, recovered her appetite and digestion, and gradually regained her strength and spirits; and had a return of regularity in the whole animal œconomy; the urine, in particular, was discharged in its usual quantity and colour.

THIS healthy appearance was of short duration: In a few weeks the Abdomen again tumefied, the accustomed evacuations were suppressed, or irregular; the disease increased with great rapidity, and the operation of tapping was again had recourse to, with similar advantages—which lasted much shorter than before.

She

She filled again with water, and I tapped her the third time ; finding this was the only means of procuring her any relief, I necessarily performed the operation the fourth time : Soon after which a fever and diarrhœa ensuing, she died the 14th October, 1736.

I was induced, by some extraordinary appearances, to open the body.

THE DISSECTION.

ON opening the integuments of the Abdomen, I discovered a collection of purulent matter, lodged between the oblique and tranverse muscles ; upon continuing the incision into the cavity of the Abdomen, there gushed out an extremely fœtid fluid, intermixed with pus and coagulable lymph, in which numerous hydatides of the magnitude of an hazel-nut, were floating : After evacuating this collection, of which were several gallons, I was surpris'd to find, that instead of the abdominal Viscera, the whole anterior surface of the Abdomen was occupied by

a membranous Cyft, which adhered firmly to the internal lamina of the Pæritoneum, extending from the brim of the Pelvis to the Epigaftic region, which had contained the collection juft mentioned, and by its weight and magnitude it had preffed the Inteftines into the upper region, immediately againft the Diaphragm. The fuperior extremity of this Cyft, with the posterior lamina of the Omentum, having formed a complete Septum, in a parallel direction with the Diaphragm, made a diftinct cavity, which contained the Abdominal Vifcera in a found ftate ; but the Inteftin : Colon efcaping out of this cavity, took a direction in a right line clofe to the Vertebrae of the back, and under the pofterior furface of the great Cyft, fimilar to the paffing of the Oefophagus through the Thorax ; and the inferior extremity of the Cyft, with the contiguous membranes,

branes, formed another Septum, around the brim of the Pelvis, and made, also, a distinct cavity below ; thus was the cavity of the Abdomen converted into several distinct cavities.

AFTER removing this great Cyft, the tunic of which was about half an inch in thickness, I discovered another Cyft, of about five inches diameter, between the Vifca Urinaria and Uterus, full of purulent matter, and a substance of a steatomatous appearance, combined with a great quantity of hair, eighteen inches in length.

THE Uterus was but little diseased ; on removing it, I discovered a third Cyft, lying between this Viscus and the Intestini : Rectum, of half the size of the second, containing pus and a fatty substance, similar to goose grease, intermixed with hair, also ; with the additional peculiarity of
 having

having its internal surface lined throughout with a lamella of bone, adhering firmly to the tunic of the Cyst.

THE hair found in each of the Cysts, was of a light, sandy colour; but the hair of the Mons Veneris, and the head of the Patient, was black. The length of it removes any suggestion of its originating from an Extra-uterine Fœtus; and it appears beyond all doubt to have been generated within the body.

I HAVE been thus particular, as few facts of this nature have yet appeared; and I conceived it might have a tendency to furnish some light upon the subject of the theory of the generation of the hair within the human body.

I REMARKED this further extraordinary
circumstance—

circumstance—notwithstanding the bladder was become almost in a scirrhus state, and in some parts ossified, yet, when the patient was relieved by tapping, she discharged urine plentifully, and with as much facility as in health.

I HAVE herewith sent you the ossified cyst, the hair, and other substance within in ; the Vesica Urinaria ossified, as also the substances found in the second cyst, for the inspection and consideration of the members of the Academy.

Explanation of the annexed Plate.

Figure *A.* the third Cyst, the hair, and other substances within it.

c. in figure *A.* shews the lamella of bone.

Figure *B.* The substance in the second Cyst.

SIR,

THE extraordinary phenomena,
exhibited in this patient and subject, influenced
me to present the above History of the Case to
you, as President of the American Academy
of Arts and Sciences.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

With great respect,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

ABIJAH CHEEVER.

To JAMES BOWDOIN, *Esq.*

*President of the American
Academy of Arts and Sciences,*

BOSTON, }
Nov. 25, 1786. }

Med. Hist.

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